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Montana and the Sky

MDT Department of Transportation – Aeronautics Division Vol. 46 No. 4 April 1995

1995 Aviation Conference Awards

Many Montana aviators were honored during the 1995 Montana Aviation Conference. A number of organizations presented annual awards to outstanding achievers for their dedication and contributions throughout the year.

The Montana Aeronautics Division presented the following awards:

Airport of the Year: **Plains Airport**
Randy Garrison accepted this award as airport manager on behalf of the airport. Airport/Airways Bureau Chief, Redge Meierhenry said, "the progress being achieved at Plains is dramatic in light of what the airport has accomplished with very little resources. Randy's management of the airport and his leadership are a perfect example of what the Aeronautics Division looks for in recognizing an airport."

FAA Recognition Award: **JoAnn Eisenzimer**
Larry Andriesen, Deputy Regional Administrator, Northwest Mountain Region, FAA, presented JoAnn with this prestigious award for her continued dedication and commitment to aviation education in Montana.

AOPA Distinguished Service Award: **Bob Lipscomb**
Ray Costello, Northwest Mountain Region Representative for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), presented this distinguished award to Bob for his dedication and service to the state. Bob was also reelected to an unprecedented third term as president of the Montana Pilots Association.

MPA President's Award: **Herb Sammons**
Herb passed away December 1994 and was honored and remembered as a longtime pilot, aviation supporter in the state and a member of the Montana Aeronautics Board for eight years, four of which were as chairman. Herb's wife, Phyllis and son Roger and wife Lisa were present to accept this award.

MPA Senior Pilot of the Year: **O.E. Markle**
Soloed on May 26, 1939, in a 50-horsepower Lenape Cub and has been involved in aviation ever since. O.E. has logged more than 10,000 hours and is still counting.

MPA Junior Pilot of the Year: **Bria Hanson**
Soloed on her 16th birthday. Was recognized and presented a scholarship to assist her in getting her private certificate which she hopes to obtain on her 17th birthday.

Randy Garrison, Plains Airport Manager, accepts the Airport of the Year Award from Mike Ferguson.

MPA "Bent Prop" Award: **Pat Lifto**
Acknowledged for allowing a snow bank to interfere with a landing, resulting in his plane coming to rest upside down. Fortunately, no one was injured, except Pat's ego.

MPA Bill Matthews Award: **John Saubak**
John was seriously wounded while serving as a helicopter crewman in Vietnam. Despite his wounds and partial disability, he subsequently earned a pilot's certificate with a waiver and has earned his instrument rating.

A Love of Aviation (ALOA) Scholarship: **Neil Kandarian**
The ALOA Scholarship is in its 3rd year and replaced the Jack Van DeRiet Flight Training Scholarship. This scholarship is funded anonymously, and this year had a second anonymous donor come forward to increase the award from $250 to $500. Neil, a student at the University of North Dakota, was unable to attend the conference and his award was accepted by his parents.

continued on page 3

Administrator's Column

More FCC Over Regulation: Can you top this? Sound like some humorous fiction talk show? Well, it's not humorous nor is it fiction but it is unbelievable, ridiculous, unnecessary, bureaucratic, and costly The Federal Communications Commission has determined that even a non-radio aircraft carrying an ELT is required to be licensed by the FCC. In last month's *Montana and the Sky*, I reported on the new FCC licensing fee which is ONLY $3.00 per year for a 10-year period or $30.00. But it's their (FCC) license application fee which kills us—which is ONLY $45. If my addition is correct, regardless of what the FCC wishes to call it—it's still going to cost you a whopping $75 to have the required FCC license in your aircraft. In other words, if you fly a no–radio Cub with an ELT you still must have an FCC radio license. Make sense to you? Or could it be just one more example of over regulation? If you have any questions or should you wish to express your opinion in this regard, you may call the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Customer Service Hotline at 1-800-322-1117.

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U.S. DOT Wants To Raid Trust Funds: U.S. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena has proposed taking money from both the Airport and Airway and Highway Trust Funds to fund other transportation programs such as mass transit and rail projects. The Pena proposal would take approximately $6.6 billion per year aviation user taxes and $20 billion per year highway user taxes and put this money into a "Unified Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (UTIIP). The proposal fails to mention what he intends to do with the current huge balances in these Trust Funds. Strong opposition is growing not only within the aviation industry but from Congress as well. I reported in last months issue of *Montana and the Sky* about the introduction of H.R. 842, The Truth In Budgeting Act, by Congressmen Norman Mineta and Bud Shuster which would take these Trust Funds out of the Federal Unified Budget and put an end to falsely masking the true Federal deficit by not spending down these Trust Fund balances. These Trust Fund monies could then be spent for the purposes for which they were intended.

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Thank You: Now that the annual Montana Aviation Conference is over and we've all had a chance to settle back into our normal everyday routines and reflect on the success of the conference, I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their part in making it happen. I wish to recognize all of the exhibitors who without them, there would be no conference; all of those who gave of their time to offer interesting and educational presentations; to those individuals and businesses who financially contributed; to the airlines who contributed airline tickets to fly in guest speakers and for drawings; to Bill Truax, volunteer Host Committee Chairman and all of the Kalispell Host Committee volunteers; to all of the Montana Aviation Organizations who gave their support; to all of our Canadian friends who attended and participated; to Lt. Governor Rehberg and all of the Kalispell officials who attended and gave their support; to the Montana Aeronautics Board for their support; to Debbie Alke, Conference Coordinator and to all of the Aeronautics Division staff; and last but certainly not least to the most important of all—to all of you who took your time to attend and participate in the Conference—TO ALL A BIG THANK YOU!!!

Restriping Your GA Airport?

Is your community planning to restripe its airport this summer? If you are and need to purchase paint, the Aeronautics Division has made arrangements with the Highways Division that will allow your city/county airport to purchase the paint directly from the Highways Division at a substantial savings. If you are interested, please contact Mike Rogan with the Aeronautics Division at 444-2506. He can make arrangements and plans for picking up the paint.

Montana and the Sky
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Marv Dye, Director

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Women's Air Race Classic

This year's Air Race Classic promises to be as challenging as ever for the expected 100 women pilots and 50 aircraft participating. This annual air race for women, formerly known as the Powder Puff Derby, will begin on June 22 in Reno, NV and finish on June 25 in Huntington, WV. The Race will cover 2,574 statute miles and will follow a course that includes a stop in Havre, MT.

The aircraft are expected to be in Havre on Thursday, June 22 (possibly overnite) and/or Friday June 23. The aircraft do not need to land at each point but must be identified and timed. Mike Ferguson will be one of the four official timers at Havre.

The local MPA is planning a social function and will be providing transportation and other services during the event. If you would like to volunteer or receive more information, contact Sharel Stroh at Hensley Flying Service (406)265-4326.

Awards continued

Aviation Organizations (AOM) of Montana Scholarship:

Thomas Rue

This award in its first years is a flight scholarship in the amount of $500 funded by AOM to assist a Montanan with expenses involved in advancing flight training.

Esther Coombs-Vance/Vern Vine Memorial Scholarship:

Laura Mitchell

This scholarship was established by the Montana Chapter of the Ninety Nines and first awarded at the 1993 Aviation Conference. A female student pilot is recognized and assisted with her flight training expenses.

Fly With A Friend

A flight safety training program to train the non-pilot to act as co-pilot for long trips, helping the pilot with navigation and flying the airplane will be sponsored by the Montana Aeronautics Division. This program usually promotes interest in continued pilot training.

The course is free and open to the public. It will be taught by Jeanne Lesnik, a certificated flight instructor in coordination with other qualified pilots.

Date: May 6, 1995

Place: Montana Aeronautics Division, 2630 Airport Rd.

Time: 9:00-11:30 am and 1:00-3:30 pm

Agenda will include: the Federal Aviation Regulations—Flight Rules ("rules of the sky") an overview; weather; chart reading—navigation; radio communication; radio navigation.

Please RSVP to Montana Aeronautics, 444-2506 by May 1.

Calendar

April 23—Aviation Day, Fort Benton.

April 29—SAR Refresher Clinic, Gallatin Field, Belgrade.

May 27 - 29—Benchmark Annual Work Session.

June 2—Montana Aeronautics Board Meeting, West Yellowstone.

June 2 - 4—Shelby Fly-in and Air Show.

June 3—Miles City Airport Appreciation Day.

June 10—International Young Eagles Day.

June 10—EAA Chapter 57 Fly-in, Laurel. Contact Bob Kimpton 259-7010.

June 19 - 30—Aviation Education Teacher Workshop, University of Montana, Missoula.

June 19 - 30—Aerospace Camp, University of Montana, Missoula.

June 22 - 25—Women's Air Race Classic.

June 24—Plains Fly-in and Air Show, contact Randy Garrison at 826-3605.

July 5 - 8 - Ercoupe Annual Convention, Kalispell, MT.

July 8 - 9—Big Sky Alive '95 Air Show, Missoula.

July 9 - 15—27th Annual International Cessna Association Convention. Kalispell, MT. Ken Morrow 208-466-1793 or Terry Westphal 406-257-4004.

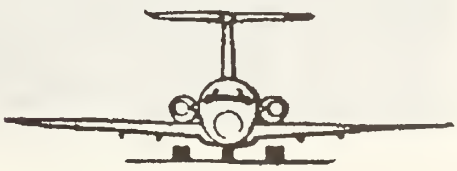
July 14 - 16—Schafer Meadows Annual Work Session.

July 20 - 23—Annual Family Fly-in and Flight Safety Expo, Helena.

August 3 - 6—MAAA Fly-in, Three Forks.

August 20—Air Show, Gallatin Field, Belgrade.

September 2 - 4—Annual Labor Day Fly-in, West Yellowstone.



Aviation Conference

Jay Billmayer and Victor Belenko — what a pair to draw to! Jay and Victor enjoyed getting acquainted and spending time together (at right).

Above, Bria Hanson, Junior Pilot of the Year, receives congratulations from Dennis DeVivo and (below) Bob Lipscomb accepts the AOPA President's Award from Ray Costello.

Concurrent session speakers share a variety of knowledge and travel great distances to participate in the conference. Thanks to these and all other speakers:

Moe Baile, Edmonton, Alberta

Joe Guthrie, Huson, MT

Bob Cathers, Frederick, MD

Dave Mihalic, Kalispell, MT

Roy Redman, Faribault, MN

Memories

Marilyn Strand and son Dwayne of Seattle take in the entertainment at Saturday night's banquet. The Diamond K Wranglers, sponsored by the Flathead Municipal Airport Authority, performed to a toe tappin', harmonious crowd!

Dr. Jerry Cockrell , (left) a 737 pilot for MarkAir, aviation psychologist and humorist, blended magic once again, and entertained a full house with his aviation tales, which include safety points. With his doctorate in psychology and years of flying a variety of aircraft, Cockrell is able to educate as he entertains.

Career panels included: general aviation careers; airline/airport careers; military careers; and educator/federal careers

General Aviation careers

The aviation/aerospace career awareness program was attended by more than 100 students from the Flathead area. An excellent program organized by Chuck Manning, Flathead High Aviation Science Instructor, was enjoyed by students and career panelists.

Military careers

Educator/Federal careers

(Left) Montana Aeronautics Board members Lee Ford and Fred Booth participate in the annual meeting of the Montana Pilots Association.

Airline/ Airport careers

Safety and Education Bureau Happenings

By: Jeanne Lesnik
Safety & Education Bureau

Summer Events

Plan ahead. Summer flying workshops and camps for students of all ages, at two Montana locations: The University of Montana–Missoula and Rocky Mountain College, Billings.

Challenging hands-on camp activities include building rockets, kits, model airplanes and hot air balloons. Students discover how things fly, how and why weather information is gathered, how air traffic is controlled, how to read maps, identify parts of an airplane, name parts of a rocket, and understand how an airplane flies. Students explore aeronautic careers and examine the U.S. space program.

✧ High Flyer Aerospace Camp

Grades 1-3 June 19-23 9:00-12:00
UM Campus/RMC
Grades 4-6 June 26-30 9:00-12:00
UM Campus/RMC

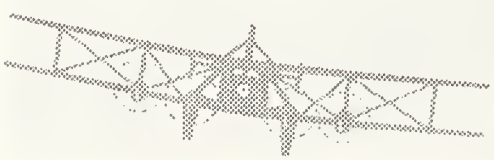
Advance registration is required by June 1. Fee is $85 per student made payable to The University of Montana (406)243-4626 or $85 made payable to Rocky Mountain College (406)657-1040.

✧ Rocky Mountain Aero Camp

Grades: students entering Grades 7-11
Date: July 10-14 8:30-4:00 daily
Fee: $400 for non-residents; $495 for students who also need meals, lodging and after hour supervision.

Campers will fly three times with aviation instructors in a training aircraft provided by Lynch Flying Service at the Billings Logan International Airport. They will also experience two training sessions in Rocky's $100,000 flight simulator and will learn the diverse areas of aviation.

Call Rocky Mountain College at (406)657-1040.



✧ Aviation Awareness Art Contest

The Montana Aeronautics Division is sponsoring its annual art contest. Prizes will be awarded in three categories:

Category I	Grades 1-4
Category II	Grades 5-8
Category III	Grades 9-12

and include:

1) a round trip flight from the winner's hometown to Helena for the winner and his/her parents;
2) a plaque and certificate of achievement presented by the Governor;
3) a career awareness tour of the Helena Regional Airport.

* Grand prize for entrants 15 to 17 years of age: Paid tuition to attend the 1995 Experimental Aircraft Association Air Academy, July 15-31, 1995, in Oshkosh, WI. Roundtrip airfare is provided compliments of Northwest Airlines.

In addition to the general entry requirements, a student wishing to be considered for this prize must submit a written statement stating his or her future career goals and/or plans for a future in the aviation/aerospace industry and past aviation experience, if any. Please include birthdate in entry.

General entry requirements:

1) Montana student, grades 1-12;
2) Poster: technical drawing, color or black and white (not to exceed 12" x 18");
3) name, grade, teacher's name, school, home mailing address, and home phone number must be printed neatly on the back of each entry.

Entries must be received by May 8, 1995. Send to: Montana Aeronautics Division, P.O. Box 5178, Helena, MT 59604.

FYI... Did you know that the construction of all windsocks, regardless of whether it is an 18" or 36" diameter opening will indicate 15 knots when fully extended?

According to FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-27C all windsocks are to be built to this standard and will indicate 15 knots when fully extended.

✧ Teacher Workshops

Designed for educators, this course is an introduction to aviation flight and the many career opportunities aerospace holds for the future.

Teachers from all subject areas and grade levels become acquainted with materials and resources available to teach aerospace units with existing curriculum.

Fee: $250*
Credit: 3 undergraduate or graduate credits
Dates: June 19-30, 1995; Monday-Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm
Two locations: The University of Montana–Missoula campus (406) 243-4626 and Rocky Mountain College, Billings (406)657-1040.
*The Montana Aeronautics Division is awarding scholarships valued at $120 for the first 30 Montana teachers to register for each workshop.
Contact: Montana Aeronautics Division (406)444-2506
The University of Montana–Missoula (406)243-4626
Rocky Mountain College–Billings (406)657-1040

Runway Lights for Sale

The Shelby Airport has 40 to 50 runway lights that they would like to sell. These are medium intensity fixtures, in good shape and would work well for repairs on airports with the same system. The price is $10 per fixture. If you are interested in purchasing one or all of these, please contact James G. Larson, Chairman, Shelby City-County Airport Commission, phone (406)434-2558

Flying to Alaska

A group from Pennsylvania is planning an informal trip to Alaska along the Alaska Highway for its second year in a row. Tentative departure dates are May 20 and June 10. For more information, contact Karen Wynn at 221 S. Barnard #34, State College, PA 16801 or (814)238-1688 or (814)863-8286.

Transportation Fatalities

By: James R. Greil
Aviation Support Officer

If you know at least one person who is the stereotypical, nail-biting aviation phobic, the type who would rather have their teeth pulled than to step through the boarding gate at your town international, you may want to draw their attention to the information that follows. The National Transportation Safety Board recently released the 1993 transportation fatality figures, and as usual, the data shows aviation to be by far one of the safest modes of transportation available.

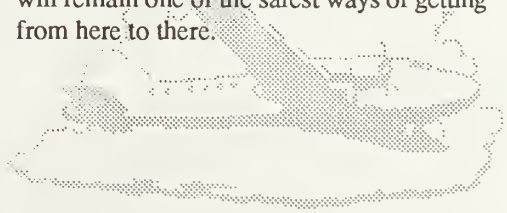
The total number of transportation deaths in 1993 was 42,585. Compare this total to the 800 aviation related fatalities and the overwhelming difference is obvious. There were only 67 commercial aviation fatalities in 1993, which exemplifies the even greater difference in safety for those whose only experience with aviation consists of commercial travel. Figure 1 below shows a graphic relationship between a number of different modes of transportation. After closer analysis of the raw data, a number of interesting facts begin to take shape.

- ✧ Aviation and maritime accidents are virtually identical in both total number and percentages of commercial accidents versus general and recreational accidents. Statistically, you are just as likely to experience disaster while out fishing on a boat as you are hopping in your C-172 and taking a flight.
- ✧ Aviation accidents only account for 1.9% of all transportation related deaths, while motorized vehicles account for 94% of the total.
- ✧ General Aviation is responsible for 89% of all aircraft fatalities, while commercial aviation is represented by only 8% of the total. When compared to the total number of transportation deaths, commercial aviation is responsible for just 00.16% of the total.
- ✧ An individual is 8 times more likely to get hit and killed by a passing car as a pedestrian and 50 times more likely to be involved in a fatal automobile accident than to die in an aviation accident.
- ✧ There are on average 2 aviation accidents per day involving an average of 2 fatalities.

According to NTSB files, there were 44 aviation accidents to be investigated in Jan. of 1995. Of these 44 accidents, 88 people were involved either as pilots or passengers, 46 of whom were killed with the majority of the remaining 42 individuals sustaining serious injury. As shown by the previous statement, unlike an automobile accident, when an individual is involved in an aviation accident, the risk of obtaining a fatal injury is much, much greater. This single fact alone coupled with a persons natural fear of heights is more likely than not the driving force behind the unreasonable fear of flying that grips some people.

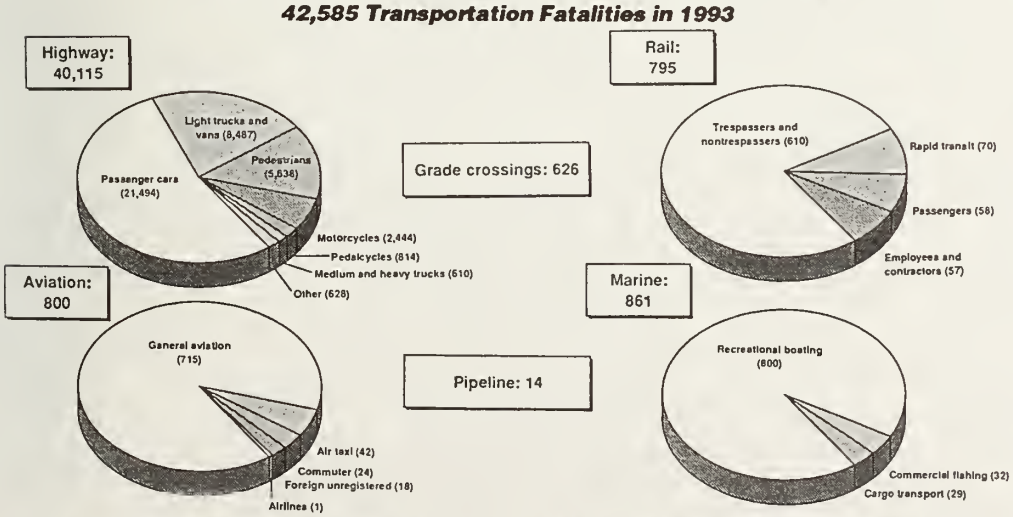
On Jan. 11, 1995, a Columbian DC-9 operated by a Columbian airline crashed after takeoff from Bogata. Of the 52 occupants, 1 person survived the crash. Incidents like this is what the average traveler is made aware of by the media despite the fact that many more people die each year in small aircraft accidents. To the nervous traveler who is caught horrified by such reports knowing that they may have to travel by aircraft in the near future, experience has shown that the most simple remedy is knowledge. Aircraft passengers who have been terrified of flying in the past have typically been helped to overcome their fear to a large extent simply by knowing the science behind the airplane, how does it fly, and how do pilots control it. It is always good practice to inform an individual who may accompany a pilot in a small aircraft about basic aircraft function and control if they are unknowledgeable before takeoff. Many lives have been saved in the past simply because a non-pilot in the right seat of a small aircraft knew vaguely how to control the aircraft after the pilot had become incapacitated.

No type of transportation is completely safe, 58 people were even killed as passengers on trains in 1993. Until a fail-safe transport of the future is developed, aviation will remain one of the safest ways of getting from here to there.



National Transportation Safety Board

42,585 Transportation Fatalities in 1993



Note: All data are preliminary estimates. Grade crossing fatalities are not included in the grand total because they were counted in the rail and highway categories, as appropriate. The pie charts are not drawn proportionately to each other. Aviation data come from the NTSB; all other data are from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT).

Billings ASOS Commissioning

The Billings Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS) will be commissioned on May 1. Fourteen of these systems have been installed at airports in Montana.

Once ASOS is commissioned in Billings, it will continue to have observer oversight; the National Weather Service observer will augment manually the observation for some parameters.

Any questions should be directed to Bert Nelson at (406)657-6988 or Larry Burch (801)524-5692, ext. 224.

New Airport Manager

The Miles City Airport Commission is proud to announce the hiring of Tom Falconer as Manager at Frank Wiley Field beginning April 1.

Tom has over 35 years of aviation background and is a certified flight and ground instructor and aircraft mechanic. He ran a small FBO at Frank Wiley Field and most recently was an Airline Pilot for United Express.

Tom's position is part time, but will be on call and available 24 hours a day. His office is in the northwest corner of the Flight Service Station, telephone number 406-232-9680(w).

Tom will be overseeing the development of a new Pilots' Center that will also be located in the old Flight Service Station. A phone, the PanAm Weather System and transient terminal will be available for use.

The next time you're in the area, stop by and say hello to Tom.

Come Join the Fun

A fly-in will be held June 2-4 in Shelby. This event is being patterned after the 10-year old traditional fly–in at Three Forks.

The featured attraction will be Delmar Benjamin performing in his one-of-a-kind, Gee Bee R-2 Replica. In 1989 Delmar made a commitment to build the 1932 Gee Bee. After one year and 6,000 hours of painstakingly hand building every part, in December 1991 the Gee Bee flew. After only 15 minutes in the air, Delmar put the aircraft through its paces, including rolls and knife-edge flight.

This will be the first time for Delmar to perform to his home town crowd.

The fly-in will also include spot landings, flour bombing and rides. Breakfast, lunch and dinner (steak fry) will be served at the airport on Saturday and a continental breakfast on Sunday.

The fly-in promises to be fun and hopefully the beginning of a tradition. Make plans to attend now!

The Department of Transportation attempts to provide reasonable accommodations for any known disability that may interfere with a person from participating in any service, program or activity of the Department. Alternative accessible formats of this document will be provided upon request. For further information, call 406-444-2506 or TDD 406-444-7696.

Thirty-two hundred copies of this public document were produced at an estimated cost of 37¢ each, for a total cost of $1,210. This includes $60 for production, $526 for postage and $624 for printing.

Weather Service Update

Staffing at the National Weather Service office in Helena will be reduced. It is expected these reductions will occur during the period of March 19 - April 8; July 9 - 29; and September 10 - 30, 1995. In an effort to minimize impact on users, the office will operate two nine-hour shifts: hours of operation will be from 6:00 am to midnight daily.

ASOS record and special aviation observations will continue to be generated through the night regardless of staffing.

MONTANA AERONAUTICS DIVISION
ORO Y PLATA

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April 1995

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